



ACANTHIZA REGULOIDES: Vig. & Horsf.

J. Gould and H.C. Richter del. & lith.

Hullmandel & Walter Imp.

ACANTHIZA REGULOIDES, *Vig. and Horsf.*

Regulus-like Acanthiza.

Acanthiza Reguloides, Vig. and Horsf. in Linn. Trans., vol. xv. p. 226.

Dwarf Warbler, var. β ? Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. vii. p. 135. No. 161.—Less. Man. d'Orn., tom. i. p. 283.

MANY of the actions of this little bird offer a close resemblance to those of the Yellow-tailed Acanthiza (*A. chrysorrhœa*); like that species, it resorts to the ground for its food; moves about in small flocks of from eight to fifteen in number; when flushed shows the yellow or buff of the rump very conspicuously; always spreads its tail while flying; flits along with a jerking motion, and is very tame. It is extremely common in South Australia, where I observed it in every part of the country I visited, and in New South Wales I even found it in the interior beyond the ranges, and also on the bare ridges between Patrick's Plains and the Liverpool range. I did not meet with it in Van Diemen's Land. It evinces a decided preference for the open country or hills slightly covered with brush, where it can feed on the ground and fly to the low shrub-like trees when disturbed; I have also seen it busily engaged among the branches, apparently in search of insects, in the pursuit of which, like the other members of the genus, it displays unusual alertness and address.

Its domed nest is placed among the foliage of the gum, swamp-oak and other trees, and is composed of fine grasses interwoven with cobwebs and slightly lined with feathers. The breeding-season comprises the months of September, October and November, and the eggs are four in number.

Crown, back of the neck, upper surface and wings olive-brown, the feathers of the forehead tipped with a lighter colour; rump, upper and under tail-coverts pale ochre; throat and chest white, each feather with a very slight, broken margin of brown; base of all the tail-feathers pale buff, the external margin of the outer feathers and the tips of all brownish buff, the central portion blackish brown; bill brown, the under mandible paler than the upper; feet olive-brown; irides beautiful straw-yellow.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size.